

**To:** Beck, Nancy[Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]; Morris, Jeff[Morris.Jeff@epa.gov]; Strauss, Linda[Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]; Schmit, Ryan[schmit.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Cleland-Hamnett, Wendy  
**Sent:** Fri 6/23/2017 8:52:05 PM  
**Subject:** From ECOS

## U.S. EPA Finalizes TSCA Rules on One-Year Anniversary of Act's Signing

U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on June 22 signed and issued three final framework rules under the new Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), as well as scoping documents for the first ten chemicals to undergo risk evaluation. The rules and documents meet the statutory deadline of one year following passage of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act.

The final framework rules include a prioritization rule outlining how EPA will prioritize existing chemicals as "high" or "low" priority for risk evaluation, a risk evaluation rule defining the process by which the agency will determine if chemicals present unreasonable risks to human health or the environment, and an inventory reset rule laying out how the agency will designate substances as "active" or "inactive." States and other stakeholders had the opportunity to comment in public meetings and through a federal docket on all three rules, which were proposed in December and had open comment periods.

EPA also issued scoping documents for the first ten chemicals subject to risk evaluation under the reformed TSCA. The documents identify uses, hazards, and exposures of each chemical and describe how the agency will conduct evaluations of the high-priority substances, which include asbestos, some chlorinated solvents, and the flame retardant HBCD. This week, the agency opened the comment period for these substances to gain information to help it conduct the problem formulation, the next step in the evaluation process. Comments will be accepted through **September 19**.

According to EPA, the rules provide the agency a clear path to evaluating chemical safety and ensuring that EPA has the information needed from chemical manufacturers to prioritize those assessments. However, there remain other mandates ahead. EPA must publish several strategies and finalize rules for both fees and the review and substantiation of confidential business information. There are also some undefined areas of the law in which states, industry, and nonprofit organizations will need to find solutions. States involved in ECOS' Toxic Substances Reduction Workgroup will continue to collaborate with EPA in the structuring and implementation of TSCA activities. [Longworth]

Wendy Cleland-Hamnett

Acting Assistant Administrator

Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator

Office of Chemical Safety & Pollution Prevention

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

202-564-2910

[cleland-hamnett.wendy@epa.gov](mailto:cleland-hamnett.wendy@epa.gov)